United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's Ongoing Investigation of Groundwater: Sampling Results

Near I-25 and Logan Street **Denver, Colorado**

Volume I Issue 3 March 2005

What Is EPA Doing?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began an environmental investigation in the area around Interstate 25 and Logan Street in Denver during the fall of 2004. Initially the investigation centered around the intersection of Mississippi and Logan Streets. The study area has since expanded to South Pennsylvania Street, north of Kentucky Street. As of March 15th, EPA has installed 35 groundwater monitoring wells in the study area.

The primary purposes of the investigation are to determine the presence of groundwater contamination and if it poses a potential health risk to residents. The contaminant of interest is trichloroethylene (TCE) which is a solvent used primarily to clean metal parts. TCE vapors from contaminated groundwater may migrate into overlying soil and eventually into buildings, usually through cracks or openings in the foundation slab or a crawl space.

What Did EPA Find?

Groundwater samples collected from 21 shallow groundwater wells did not contain TCE concentration above detection limits. **Previously, it was incorrectly reported that a shallow well south of I-25 had a TCE concentration of 1.6 ug/L (micrograms per liter, this often times is referred to as parts per billion [ppb]).** However, this well was completed in the deeper groundwater, and the contamination detected was tetrachloroethene (PCE). EPA has not detected TCE in any of the deep or shallow wells south of I-25.

Certain samples collected from the deeper groundwater north of I-25 had TCE contamination. TCE contamination was initially found in a well just north of I-25 along Logan Street at a concentration of approximately 500 ug/L. As of March 15th, the northern-most EPA well was located on Pennsylvania Street mid-block between Kentucky and Logan Streets with a TCE concentration of about 120 ug/L. The contamination in the EPA's study area was only found in the deeper groundwater wells.

Deeper wells along Kentucky Street west of Logan that were installed by Cherokee Investment Partners have shown lower levels of TCE in the deeper water and possibly in the shallow wells. Although the groundwater is not used for drinking water, these levels are well above the established federal and State of Colorado drinking water standard of 5 ug/L.

What Did EPA Find?

A clay layer that exists in this area has been observed in all EPA wells. It separates the shallow from the deeper groundwater and appears to be acting as a barrier, keeping the contamination from moving up to the shallow groundwater. As a result, we do not believe that the health and indoor air of homeowners are being impacted by the TCE contamination in the groundwater.

What Will EPA Do Next?

EPA will continue to investigate the extent of the higher levels of TCE found along Logan Street and Pennsylvania Street. In addition, EPA will install both shallow and deep wells north of Kentucky Street from Sherman to Grant Streets. In residential areas where we find contaminated groundwater we will conduct sampling in the home, as appropriate, to determine if there are vapors directly underneath the foundation or inside crawl spaces. This will help to determine if indoor air sampling is warranted.

EPA will post sample results on its website, **http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/co_sf.html#4.** We will provide updates on a periodic basis. Also, the information repository is located at Decker Library, 1501 S. Logan, Denver, CO.

Give Us A Call!

Steve Way
EPA Project Manager
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-312-6723

Peggy Linn
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
999 18th Street, Suite 300 (8OC)
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-312-6622

Email: linn.peggy@epa.gov

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